Meeting of State Environment Secretaries

*219. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of State Secretaries and Chairman of Pollution Control Boards was held in Delhi during January 1993;

(b) if so, the recommendations made at the meeting and decisions taken;

(c) whether details of the green cess scheme were put forth and decisions arrived at; and

(d) what programme was adopted for pollution control by industries and what are the targets fixed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) A meeting with Secretaries, Departments of Environment of the State Governments, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board and Chairman, State Pollution Control Boards was held on January 25, 1993, at New Delhi. The status of compliance of major and medium scale industries in the identified heavily polluting sectors was reviewed particularly with regard to the action taken against the defaulting units.

(b) to (d) The following areas have been identified where special stress should be given by the Central and State Governments and Central and State Pollution Control Boards in 1993-94 :—

(1) *Environmental Audit* :—The accent in Environmental audit would be on the conservation of natural resources, computerisation and networking between the different agencies. The major efforts would be in ensuring that guidelines & inter-firm comparisons of waste generation are available and published. Adequate training would be provided and awareness build up.

(2) *Compliance with standards* :—The unit which were set up prior to May, 1981 would has been to comply with the standards by December, 1993, including a focus on small scale industries and chemical pollutants. The States have to ensure that this deadline is met by the units in SSI units. This should also be implemented through modernisation of the units in the SSI units in the 17 highly polluting sectors. Pollution control from these industries is important for maintaining the quality of the water bodies.

(3) *Air pollution control particularly in Metropolitan Areas/States Capitals* :—Special efforts are to be made to control vehicular pollution, lead pollution and noise. The concept of having air pollution control areas by setting up air sheds need to be followed in all States.

(4) *Strategy for pollution control from mining Activities* :—A strategy is to be worked out to formulate an environmental management plan and a monitoring mechanism for mines.

(5) *State of Environment Reports* :—The States need to regularly bring out state of environment reports as a part of their annual reports so that policies for the future can be framed.

(6) *Cess Collection* :—Methods of augmenting cess collection were discussed particularly collection from local bodies as they have a vital role to play in the pollution control programme.

Closure of Indian Embassy in Afganistan

*220. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the value of personal properties of Indian Embassy staff and the properties of Government of India that was lost on closure of Indian Embassy in Afghanistan;

(b) the total number of Indian origins in Afghanistan having migrated to India during the last five years and the values of the properties abandoned by them in Afghanistan;